

## Audio file

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## Transcript

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Here is a special report from NBC News now NBC News correspondent Tom Brokaw at the White House in Washington.

00:00:09

Good afternoon. A series of dramatic developments at the highest levels of the United States government today, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew came here to The West Wing of the White House about three hours ago now and resigned in Baltimore today. Mr. Agnew pleaded no contest to charges of income tax.

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To evasion, he was sentenced to three years probation and fined \$10,000. Mr. Agnew submitted his letter of resignation to the Secretary of State, Kissinger, at 2:05 PM Eastern Standard Time today, and the Secretary's office here in The West Wing of the White House. Another letter of resignation from the vice president to President Nixon was delivered.

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Just moments later, however, the White House press Secretary, Ron Ziegler, later disclosed with the vice president informed Mr. Nixon that his decision to quit at a private meeting between the two men and the President's Oval Office last night.

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Since the announcement this afternoon, President Nixon has been in meetings with members of his staff, cabinet and congressional leaders working on a schedule of further consultations to find a successor to Mr. Agnew for secretary. Ziegler said the president will talk with what he called appropriate national leaders in and out of the administration.

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To find a nominee to send to Congress under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, a vacancy in the vice presidency is filled in this manner. The president sends his nominee or nominees to Congress.

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And then it takes a majority of both the House and the Senate for confirmation. So that's the process that the President is working on at this time, finding first nominee and then submitting that name to Congress. We're told that he will act expeditiously and expeditiously means in this case, that it will not take a matter of weeks. The Senate was due to recess.

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For two weeks on this Friday that summer recess now has been canceled. Several names mentioned already.

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Former Texas governor and former Treasury Secretary John Connolly, Governor Reagan of California, is flying to Washington for a conference. Other names mentioned former Secretary of State William Rogers and Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York tonight at 7:00 Eastern Standard Time and NBC News Special report on the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew. Tom Brokaw.

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NBC News at the White House.

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This has been a special report from NBC News.